GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2282
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
COMMUNAL CLASHES
MINATI SEN;RAM CHANDRA DOME

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a series of communal clashes in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan during December, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for additional security forces during December, 2000;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet their demand and to contain the communal clashes in these three sensitive States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a)to(d): As per the reports received there has been no series of communal clashes in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan during December 2000. However, minor communal incidents have taken place in these States during this period.

`Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and the State Governments are primarily concerned with the maintenance of law and order. The Union Government shares information and sends alert messages/advisories to enable the concerned State Governments to take appropriate action. Detailed guidelines for promotion of communal harmony have also been issued to all the State Governments/Union Territories. In addition, the Central Para-military Forces are made available to them on specific requests, and a special Force called the Rapid Action Force has been deployed exclusively for dealing with communal tensions. Assistance is also being provided to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh requested for deployment of Rapid Action Force in communally sensitive areas in the State during the month of December, 2000. Necessary assistance, to the extent possible, was provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. No such request was received in this Ministry from the Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan in this regard during this period.